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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria
MESSAGE CENTER
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

59
DESP. NO.

September 8, 1952
DATE

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - August 25

September 6, 1952
DATE

POLITICAL

Governor Going on Leave

Sir John MACPHERSON, Governor, and wife to go UK on home leave about September 18th. Presently on three-day official tour towns on Lagos lagoon. Governor to take three months leave with Chief Secretary BENSON acting here and L. H. GOBLE continuing as Acting Chief Secretary.

Governor Decrees No Change in Western Region Boundary

By special Gazette of September 3rd, the Governor announced decision in re change of Northern Region - Western Region border in Ilorin area. H. E. said border to remain unchanged. Question pending since before adoption present constitution. Constitutional conference decided leave problem to study and decision by Governor. Decision made without consultation and advice of Council of Ministers. Majority population of area is Yoruba, but placed under Emirate of Ilorin and Northern Region. Agitation for inclusion in Western Region not deep-rooted and Government not expecting serious repercussions.

NCNC Pronouncements in re Present Constitution

At Fourth Annual convention of NCNC, Kola BALOGUN, National Secretary, announced party's aim for immediate review present Nigeria constitution. Self-government by 1956 stated as target. Other aims: unitary system of government; stronger central legislature; direct election to all offices now under indirect system; higher salaries and price controls; and closer ties with rest of Africa.

Lagos Town Council Inquiry Continues

Very little new or conclusive evidence has been turned up in the LTC inquiry hearings. Evidence given either strictly on party

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lines of witness or irrelevant complaints by citizens in re roads, garbage, slums, etc. Newspaper coverage poorest type. Public given contrary reportage depending upon which party's paper they read. Little doubt that LTC paralyzed by personal and political disputes and Mayor's inacceptability to other members.

G. O. C. Nigeria District Transferred

Major General C. B. FAIRBANKS, General Officer Commanding, Nigeria District to go to UK Imperial Defense College as Chief Army Instructor early in November. Presently in Gold Coast relieving Gen. WHISTLER, who is on leave. G. O. C. Nigeria replacing Fairbanks reported to be Maj. Gen. G. H. INGLIS.

ECONOMIC

Government Denies High Infestation of Peanut Pyramids

An official report recently published denies press reports that peanut pyramids in North half destroyed by insects. Admits some infestation by Trogoderma but not to extent of 50% destruction. Fumigation and sealing under rubber sheets being employed to check pest invasion.

No prospect getting last crop peanuts out before onset this year's crop. Stored nuts amount to six months capacity railroad at present rate hauling, and new crop due within two months.

OEEC Peanut Group To Visit North

Announcement made of OEEC peanut group visit to Nigeria during September. Reportedly headed by Mr. HIGGINS, American. Evidently plan visit peanut growing areas, Mokwa experimental project and Ibadan College.

Western Regional Production Development Board Reports Grants

WRPDB reports allocation to it of £8,475,225 since inception three years ago. Cocoa Marketing Board contributed over £6.5 million; and Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board gave almost £2 million. Nearly \$5 million already set aside for Board projects including food production; cocoa improvement; roads; and rubber and citrus processing factories.

Announce Iron Ore in Nigeria

Geological Survey Department disclosed iron ore deposits near Niger, above Lokoja on the Agbaja Plateau. Admits ore less than 45% iron, although easily mined. Similar Enugu deposit also announced. Nigerian coal unsuitable for necessary coke, so no smelting to be done soon.

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INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

North Announces Centralized Loan System to Schools

Government Northern Region announces establishment Building Loans Funds for granting loans to "voluntary agencies" (missions, etc.) for construction of schools. Loans may be free or at rate 3% interest. Grants under strict control Director of Education.

Increased Press Interest in US Scholarships

Local press showing obvious increased notice of scholarships to US institutions, although primarily as applies official US Government grants. Typical is Daily Success editorial praising scholarships as example of big-heartedness and fairness of America, saying "the American Government doesn't remove anything from this country for its own benefit." This editorial prompted by recent teacher-trainee grants to two Nigerians. Paper suggests such grants be for longer visit; warned against slipping into British Council-type six weeks grants. Consulate General feels large part new interest is result intensive USIS efforts distribute material on US schools.

Good Results Visit Karl PELZER, Yale Geographer

Recent Carnegie Corporation-sponsored visit Yale professor, although brief, pleased local government people and others. Comments indicate pleasure this additional evidence US groups' interest in West Africa. Such visits create much goodwill for America.

Robert W. Ross

Robert W. Ross
Vice Consul

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